

II. The Invention

The present invention is based, in part, upon the discovery of a family of polypeptides that appear to act as a costimulator of T cell activation. In particular, the invention provides mammalian, e.g., rodent and primate, polynucleotide sequences that are expressed in the thymus, and are induced on T cells and spleen cells following activation.

III. The Amendments

The present amendments represent implementation of discussions Applicants' representatives had with the Examiner. Applicants thank the Examiner for her generous help and consideration.

Support for various hybridization temperatures and salt concentrations can be found at page 11, lines 13-16; page 14, lines 17-18; and page 37, lines 20-23. Per the Examiner's suggestion, Applicants replaced the phrase "wash conditions" with the phrase "hybridization conditions." In conversation with the Examiner, Applicants received approval to split the Markush format of allowable claims 47 and 48 into separate New Claims 51-56. Claim 30 was amended removing the natural and species variants of SEQ ID NO: 2 or 4, however part (a) was kept. Support for conservative substitutions can be found, e.g., at page 7, line 10, bridging to page 8, line 21.

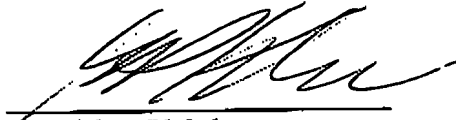
Conclusion

Applicants maintain that presently amended and newly presented claims (Claims 9, 11-12, 17-20, 23-26, 28-56; Appendix A) clearly and patentably define the invention. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and passage of these claims to allowance at the earliest possible convenience.

Should the Examiner deem allowance inappropriate, Applicants respectfully request an interview be granted with the undersigned representative to discuss the issues. If the Examiner would like to discuss any point raised in the Office Action, Applicants' representative may be reached at (650) 496-1244.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures and attachments:

Appendix A- Proposed claims as of SEPTEMBER 1999

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